

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy, containing from 12 to 60% by weight of Si, the balance being essentially Al, the aluminum-alloy flame-sprayed by means of high velocity oxy-fuel flame-spraying method (HVOF) under a half-molten state, in which a portion of the flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy does not melt, onto a substrate roughened by shot blasting, and includes granular Si particles dispersed in the matrix of the aluminum alloy, the granular Si particles having a short-diameter/long diameter ratio of 1/3 or more and including granular Si particles having a particle size greater than 10 μm , and also includes primary Si and eutectic Si particles, which are distinct from said granular Si particles and further said flame-sprayed aluminum alloy has a thickness of 10 to 500 μm and has adhesive strength of film higher than that of a flame-sprayed Ni film, as measured by a shear-fracture testing method.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy containing from 12 to 60% by weight of Si, from 0.1 to 30% by weight of Sn, the balance being essentially Al, the aluminum-alloy flame-sprayed by means of high velocity oxy-fuel flame-spraying method (HVOF) under a half-molten state, in which a portion of the flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy does not melt, on a substrate roughened by shot blasting, and includes granular Si particles and Sn dispersed in the matrix of the aluminum alloy, the granular Si

particles having a short-diameter/long diameter ratio of 1/3 or more and including granular Si particles having a particle size greater than 10 μm , and also includes primary Si and eutectic Si particles, which are distinct from said granular Si particles and further said flame-sprayed aluminum alloy has a thickness of 10 to 500 μm and has adhesive strength of film higher than that of a flame-sprayed Ni film, as measured by a shear-fracture testing method.

Claim 3 (Original): A flame-sprayed aluminum alloy according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said alloy contains at least one element of the group consisting of: 7.0% by weight or less of Cu; 5.0% by weight or less of Mg; 1.5% by weight or less of Mn; 1.5% by weight or less of Fe; and 8.0% by weight or less of Ni.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A flame-sprayed aluminum alloy according to any one of claims 1 ~~through 3 or 2~~, wherein the average particle diameter of said granular Si is 50 μm or less.

Claim 5 (Canceled):

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A flame-sprayed aluminum-alloy according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein a coating containing a material selected from the group consisting of Sn, Pb-Sn and MoS₂-graphite is applied on said flame-sprayed aluminum alloy.